

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 8, 1877, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. New York, Sunday, April 8th. 1877. My dear Alec:

I have been writing leisurely letter to Josie Barnard thinking I had plenty of time, but Mamma has suddenly announced I have but a quarter of an hour to write to you. I am so sorry for I wanted to send you a good long letter.

I am going to Paterson with Mamma to spend the week, write to me care of Dr. E. J. Marsh, Paterson, N. J.

My heart has been full of you all today, it is a beautiful bright spring day and I have wished so much that you were here to enjoy it with me. I hope you have been keeping your promise to me and resting today, really Alec dear I don't think it is right for you and Mr. Watson to work on this day. What is that commandment written for if it is not to be obeyed, and why most people always finding other meanings than that expressed in these plain words "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thou hast to do, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God, and in it thou shalt do no manner of work. I don't want to preach nor do I think myself strict, but I do think those are plain words, and that they are meant to be obeyed not by women alone but by men, hard working men especially. When there is a special need for an instrument to be done or a certain near day I can excuse your working on Sunday, and I do not mind it on an especial occasion, but I do not like you to make a habit of it.

Mamma and I are going to Paterson to see Auntie Kittie, I must confess I decidedly prefer staying here anyhow, I shall not go 2 until the last mail that can bring a letter from you has

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come, and gone, Grandpa says he saw notices of your lecture in a Boston and Providence paper, that is all we have heard, I am so anxious for some news of you, if only a postal.

I hope you have been out to see Cousin Mary, she likes you for your own sake and has been so kind to you that I want you to go out there occasionally. You will have a nice time too and I don't approve of "all work and no play." If you want to write to Papa, but unfortunately I can't tell you where to write to, Mamma thinks we shall hear tomorrow and then I will tell you.

It seems such an age since you were here, but take courage Auntie says she knows just how it is, but we shall have such a good time next winter that we shall not mind this waiting. "Anything that is worth having is worth paying for". But now I must mail this. Excuse the hurried note. It contains a good deal of love from your own loving, May.